AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a polyester ~~as claimed in claim 1~~ comprising at least one of a pendant and/or a terminal group which can be activated with actinic radiation, comprising reacting at least one of

1. a polyester (i) containing at least one of a pendant and/or terminal hydroxyl group reacted with at least one of a carboxylic acid (i) and one ester (i) of a carboxylic acid (i) each containing at least one bond which can be activated with actinic radiation, and

2. a polyester (ii) containing at least one of a pendant and/or terminal carboxylic acid group and a pendant and/or terminal carboxylic ester group reacted with at least one hydroxyl-containing compound (ii) each containing at least one bond which can be activated with actinic radiation

in the presence of a catalyst, the catalyst being at least one of an enzyme which catalyzes the transesterification or esterification and organism(s) which catalyze(s) the transesterification or esterification, wherein the process does not result in any reduction in molecular weight of the polyester.

18. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the water produced during the esterification of the polyesters (i) and (ii) or the resultant hydroxyl-containing compounds is or are removed from the reaction mixture as they are forming or immediately after they have formed.

Claims 19-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 17 wherein the enzyme is used in an amount of from 0.1 to 20% based on the total amount of the starting products.

22. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 17 wherein the enzyme is selected from the group consisting of hydrolases [EC 3.x.x.x].

23. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 22, wherein the hydrolases [EC 3.x.x.x], are selected from the group consisting of esterases [EC 3.1.x.x] and proteases [EC 3.4.x.x].

24. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 23, wherein the hydrolases are carboxyl ester hydrolases [EC 3.1.1.x].

25. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 24, wherein the hydrolases are lipases.

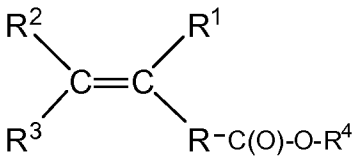
26. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 25, wherein the lipases are obtained-from at least one of Achromobacter sp., Aspergillus sp., Burkholderia sp., Candida sp., Mucor sp., Penicillium sp., Pseudomonas sp., Rhizopus sp., Thermomyces sp., and porcine pancrease.

27. (New) A process for preparing a polyester comprising at least two pendant groups that can be activated with actinic radiation, comprising reacting a polyester having at least two pendant hydroxyl groups with at least one ester of a carboxylic acid containing a carbon-carbon double bond that can be activated with actinic radiation;

in the presence of a catalyst, the catalyst being at least one of an enzyme which catalyzes the transesterification or esterification and an organism which catalyzes the transesterification or esterification, wherein the enzyme is selected from the group consisting of hydrolases that are carboxylester hydrolases;

wherein the reactions are carried out at a temperature of 15 to 75°C; wherein the water produced during the esterification of the polyester or the resultant hydroxyl-containing compounds is or are removed from the reaction mixture as they are forming or immediately after they have formed.

28. (New) The process of claim 27, wherein the ester of a carboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of compounds of the general formula II:



(II),

in which R is a bonding electron pair between the olefinic carbon atom and the carbon atom of a carbonyloxy group and linking organic radical; R^1, R^2 and R^3 are hydrogen atoms or organic radicals, optionally linked cyclically to one another; and the variable R^4 is a hydroxyl-free, monovalent organic radical.

29. (New) The process of claim 28 wherein the monovalent organic radical R^4 consists of at least one radical selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl-free alkyl, cycloalkyl, and aryl radicals.

30. (New) The process of claim 28 wherein the ester of a carboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl-free esters of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, ethacrylic acid, crotonic acid, cinnamic acid, cyclohenecarboxylic acid, and dicycylopentadienecarboxylic acid.

31. (New) The polyester as claimed in claim 28, wherein the ester of a carboxylic acid is methyl acrylate.

32. (New) The process of claim 27 wherein the reaction is carried out in bulk without the addition of organic solvents or in the presence of small amounts.

33. (New) The process of claim 27 wherein the process is carried out at a temperature of 20 to 70°C.

34. (New) The process of claim 27 wherein an absorbent is used to remove hydroxyl-containing compound or water that forms from the reaction mixture during or immediately after its formation in the process.

35. (New) The process of claim 35 wherein a molecular sieve is used to absorb the hydroxyl-containing compound or water.

36. (New) A process for preparing a polyester comprising at least two pendant groups that can be activated with actinic radiation, comprising reacting a polyester containing at least one of a pendant and/or terminal hydroxyl group reacted with at least one ester of a carboxylic acid, each containing at least one bond which can be activated with actinic radiation, wherein the ester of a carboxylic acid is a hydroxy-free ester of acrylic acid or methacrylic acid and the bond which can be activated with actinic radiation is a carbon-carbon double bond;

in the presence of a lipase catalyst obtained from at least one of Achromobacter sp., Aspergillus sp., Burkholderia sp., Candida sp., Mucor sp., Penicillium sp., Pseudomonas sp., Rhizopus sp., Thermomyces sp. and porcine pancrease;

wherein the reactions are carried out at a temperature of 15 to 75°C; wherein the water produced during the esterification of the polyester or the resultant hydroxyl-containing compounds is or are removed from the reaction mixture as they are forming or immediately after they have formed.

37. (New) The process of claim 36 wherein the polyester comprises the reaction product of a trimethylolpropane monomer

38. (New) The process of claim 36 wherein the polyester comprises the reaction product of a phthalic anhydride monomer.

39. (New) The process of claim 36 wherein the polyester comprises the reaction product of a neopentylglycol and hexanediol monomer.

40. (New) The process of claim 27 wherein the polyester comprises at least three pendant groups that can be activated with actinic radiation.

41. (New) The process of claim 36 wherein the polyester comprises at least three pendant groups that can be activated with actinic radiation.

42. (New) A process of preparing a multicoat paint system comprising coating at least one colored coating composition over a substrate, coating a composition comprising a polyester

prepared according to the process of claim 17 over said colored coating composition, and curing the coated substrate with actinic radiation.

43. (New) A process of preparing a multicoat paint system comprising coating at least one colored coating composition over a substrate, coating a composition comprising a polyester prepared according to the process of claim 27 over said colored coating composition, and curing the coated substrate with actinic radiation.

44. (New) A process of preparing a multicoat paint system comprising coating at least one colored coating composition over a substrate, coating a composition comprising a polyester prepared according to the process of claim 36 over said colored coating composition, and curing the coated substrate with actinic radiation.